THE CONDITION OF THE FREEDMEN

Messrs Robert Dale Owen, James McKaye, and amuel G Howe, having been appointed to inquire into the relations of the freedmen to the present war, have just published a "preliminary report," in which, with other reflections of a more general nature, they suggest the following "plan of organization" for the government of freedmen throughout the South :

The commission suggest a plan of provisional organiza-The commission suggest a plan of provisional organiza-tion for the improvement, protection, and employment of refugee freedom, extending for the present over those districts of country only with the condition of which they have become acquinited, chiefly by personal inspection of the various locations, in part by reliable reports and depo-sitions—namely, the District of Columbia, Eastern Vir-ginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florda. The Commission have endeavored to adopt their plan

The Commission base sudenvered to ad-pt their plan not only to the immediate wants under the present condition of things, but also to meet such additional occupancy by Federal troops of the four States above named as is likely to occur during U e present year, and until Congress shall have had opportunity to legislate on this subject.

The Commission propose—

1. That the above region of country constitute three freedmen's sup-rinter denotes or departments, the first comprising the District of Columbia and Eastern Virginia, the second extending over North Carolina the second extending over North Carolina, and the third embracing the States of South Carolina and Fierida. 2. That there be appointed for each of these superintendencies a Department Superintendent, with the pay and a lowance of a colonel of avalry.

3. That there be appointed as many resident superin-

tendents in each department as there are important sta-tions therein, with not less in each than from three to five thousand freedmen to care for; these resident supermtendents to have the pay and allowances of captain of

cavalry.

4. That where the number of freedmen at any station sha'l exceed seven or eight thousand, and it is the opinion of the Department Superintendent, expressed in writing that an assistant superintendent is required, there be appointed such assistant, with the pay and allowances of tenant of cavalry. In all cases necessary transportation to be sllowed to

such superintendents. 5. That there be appointed such clerks and foremen as may be necessary to carry out the details of this organization tion, with wages of from one to three dollars a day, gra-duated according to the character of their duties.

And, finally, that there be detailed as Superintendent General of Freedmen an officer of suitable qualifications. not under the rank of a brigadier general, to whom and to his staff be assigned an office in the War Department, his staff officers acting as secretaries or otherwise aiding him in his duties of supervision. It will be seen that this organization presupposes three

grades of superintendents besides a chief as central head, thus:

One Superintendent General of Freedmen for the United States. Department Superintendents-One for each superinten-

dency, comprising not less than a State.

Resident Superintendents—One for each residency, with
not less than three thousand freedmen to care for.

Assistant Superintendents—One to aid the Resident Superintendent when the number of freedmen within the residency exceeds seven to eight thousand. idency exceeds seven to eight thousand.

Together with the needful clarks and foremen.

The plan will not the C.

The plan will not, the Commission believe, be deemed unnecessarily elaborate when the possibility is taken into

account that the colored population, for whose supervision it is prepared, may reach the number of a million or a million and a half before the current year expires.

The Commission further propose that to the general officer detailed as Superintendent General of Freedmen be accounted to the current of the commission committed, until Congress shall otherwise provide, the general supervision, throughout the United States, of the colored population emancipated by the President's proclamation and by acts of Congress; and the duty of seeing faithfully carried out the plan of organization which may be adopted.

That to this officer, as head of the organization, all reports of Department Superintendents, and all requisitions by them for money or other supplies, be addressed; and that it be his duty to lay these, with such remarks thereon he may deem proper, before the Secretary of War.

That if, as the Freedmen's Superintendencies shall in

crease in numbers and importance, the officer aforesaid from time to time, the Department Superintendents to sit for a few days as a board for consultation and for comparison of mutual experience, it shall be his opinion so to do, and of such a beard he shall be chairman.

That each Resident Superintendent shall report at least once a month to the proper Department Superintendent, who shall communicate said reports, with such remarks thereon and such recommendations in regard to any resitions they may contain as to him may seem proper, to the Superintendent General. That each Assistant Superintendent report to the proper

That each Assistant Superintendent report to the proper Resident Superintendent, who shall communicate such report, with his remarks thereon, if any he deem necessary, to the proper Department Superintendent.

A competent surgeon and hospital steward should be appointed for each residency, and assistant surgeon added when the number of refugees attached to the residency and the superintendency.

officers the pay and allowances of officers of the same rank in the army. But it is very desirable that, as soon as pos-aible, the proper relation between physician and patient be in a measure at least established, by causing these sure at least established, by causing medical men to depend in part for support on those whom they attend.

The importance of enlightened instruction, educational

The importance of enlightened instruction, educational and religious, to these uneducated people cannot be overestimated. It is pleasant to the Commission to be able to state their conviction that the freedmen in every district of country they have visited, eager to obtain for themselves, but especially for their children, those privileges of education which have hitherto been jealously withheld from them, may already be depended upon to support in part both teachers and pastors. The benevolent and religious action of the North are adding liberally in this good wo k; and the opinion of some of those who have taken a leading part in these philanthropic efforts (as expressed to the Commission) is that with the aid of the freedmen themselves, they will be able for the present and until the num-ber of refugee freedmen shall materially increase, in most cases to supply the necessary literary and religious instruc-tion. If, in the organization of the various superintenden-cies this opinion should prove correct it is well. But opinion should prove correct, it is well. But organized efforts of private benevolence are usually uncerin their duration, and a greatly increased immigration of refugees may so sugment the number of freedmen needing instruction that the demand for school t-aching and
pastoral care will exceed the supply. In that case it may
be necessary in certain locations that Government, for the
time being, detail a chaplain to take the religious charge
of a residency; and that it pay the salaries of the necessary
teachers until the freedmen's schools become self support-

As to these matters, it should be made the duty of the department superintendent specially to report.

Meanwhile, the Government should afford transports cion to any religious or secular teachers who are accredited by respectable societies, and supported, in whole or in part, from the funds of the societies by whom

As a general rule, the refugees will probably sooper be able to pay their clergymen than to provide the requisite number of teachers for their children. The freedmen of Newbern have recently invited a private of the Forty third Massachusetts volunteers, named Edward Fitz, of de:hodist persuasion and having a license to preach, to ecome their pastor, at a salary of one thousand a year. The organization here proposed will be incomplete in those parts of the superintendencies herespokes of in which the ordinery courts of justice are suspended, unless tempotary provision be made for a magistracy through whose me ster, must now be rendered by them, as freedmen, to catablished law—care being taken not to encourage them to become litigious. In this view, the Commission recommend that wherever, thro and that wherever, throughout the superintendencies and resaid, justices of the peace and circuit and other judges have ceased to hold their sessions, a provost judge, if he be not already appointed, should be. The lack of such an officer at Port Koyal is very much felt.

They further recommend that the proper Department Superintendent be vested with authority to bring to conciliation and settlement all difficulties arising between freedmen, except where resort to a provest judge or other legal tribunal becomes necessary. Where a case of difficulty occurring between a freedman and a white man goes before a provost marshal or provost judge, or before any before a provost marshal or provost judge, or before any regularly established legal tribunal, it should be made the duty of the Department Superintendent so far to act as case is fairly present d and tried; and to this end, in imand adviser for the freedman as to see to it that his portant cases, where necessary, to employ counsel. In all these cases the Department Superintendent shall give th counsel and advice as shall tend to justice between he parties, acting in person when practicable; but. if becessary, he may be allowed to appoint the appropriate resident superintendent to act for him as deputy during

in the settlement of minor cases. It should be specially recommended to the Department Superiotendent, in the settlement of all personal difficullies between these people, to act as arbitrator rather than be formal judge—adoping the general principles governing courts of conciliation. And it is confidently believed by the Commission that if he shall succeed in gaining the confidence of the freedmen under his charge, he will, with the exceptions, be able smirably and satisfactorily to adult such difficulties without further resort to law. As to the mode of appointment of superintendents and

mployés above proposed, the Commission suggest as That the department superintendents be appointed by be Secretary of War.

That the resident superintendents and assistant super-intendents be nominated to the superintendent general by the respective de, artment superintendents for confirmation That clerks, when no ded at any 'reedmen's station, be mominated by the resident superintendent to the department superintendent for confirmation or rejection.

That the resident superintendents may, with the concurrence of the department superintendents, appoint foremen

when needed. But that the number of residencies in a department, and also the number of assistant superintendents, be deter-mined, after a report on the subject from the department superintendent to the superintendent general aforesaid, by that officer. In the above recommendations as to the mode of ap

pointing subordinate efficers the Commission are influenced by their conviction that it is a principle of great practical mportance in administrative organizations that upon a officers to whom subordinates are immediately responsible should be thrown, as far as prudence permits, the respon-bil ty, by selection of such subordinates, of having about hem only men of character and of proper qualifications. When a work man has choice of tools he cannot throw the

blame of bid workmanship upon them.

Fig. Commission here desire to record their profound conviction that upon the judicious selection of Department Superintendents and of Superintendent General of ment Superintendents and of Superintendent General of Freedmen will mainly depend the successful practical workings of the above sketca-d plan of organization. The African race, accustomed to sheld itself by cunning and evasion, and by shirking of work, whenever it can be afely shirked, against the oppression which has been itself to requestions, is yet of genial nature, alive to gratitude, open to impressions of kindness, and more readily influe ced and I d by those who treat it well and gain itself. influe ced and I d by those who treat it well and gain its confidence than our race, or perhaps than any other. The wishes and recommendations of Government, if they are not harsbly enforced but quietly communicated by those who understand and sympathize with the African nature, will be received and obeyet as commands in almost every instance. It is highly important, therefore, that those who have in charge the interests of these freedmen shall a most only a desired treatment of communication. men not only of administrative ability, but also of comrehensive benevolence and humanitarian views.

On the other hand, it is equally desirable that these re-fugers, as readily spoiled as children, should not be treated with weak and injurious indulgence. Even-handed justice, not special favor is what they need. Mild firmness is the proper spirit in which to control them. They should find themselves treated not as children of preference, fostered by charity, dependent for a living on Government or on benevolent associations, but as men from whom in their new character of freedmen, self-reliance and self-support

are demanded.
Superintendents imbued with this spirit and the views here recommended will, if they possess a fair amount of executive talent, find little difficulty in managing refugee freedmen, and with infrequent exceptions will meet with no factious opposition on their part.

In first putting into operation this plan of management it is recommended that the present superintendents in the departments referred to be either confirmed as resident or ssistant superintendents, under the new organization, or at ance relieved from duty.

DIPLOMACY AND THE POLISH REVOLUTION.

In response to the call for intervention, which went up from nearly every part of Europe, the Governments of France, England, and Austria recently united in a remonstrance to the Emperor of Russia in reation to Poland, and at the same time presented a plan for the pacification and better government of that distracted country. This plan embraced the following six points:

 Complete and general amnesty.
 National representation, with powers similar to those which are fixed by the charter of the 15—27 November, 1815.
3. Poles to be usmed to public offices in such a manner

as to form a distinct national administration, having the confidence of the country.

4. Full and entire liberty of conscience; repeal of the

restrictions imposed on Catholic worship.

5. The Polish language recognised in the kingdom as the official language, and used as such in the administration of the law and in education. 6. The establishment of a regular and legal system of

It was the general expectation of Europe that Russis

would accept these points as the basis of negotiations, a suspension of arms, and a conference of the eight Powers that signed the treaty of Vienna. These points being the ninimum of the three Powers that presented them, it was well understood that the rejection of any one was considered inadmissible. Prince Gortschakoff has not only reused to accept them, but has coupled with his refusal language and statements which have given deep offence to each of the three Powers. In his reply to England he admits the right of the Pow

ers that signed the treaty to exchange sentiments in regard to the mere interpretation of certain articles; but he firmly denies their right to interfere in the present struggle; he declares that the reorganization of Poland must be preceded by the re-establishment of order; that the ments; that the masses have kept aloof from it; that politically it is a stage display, intended to act upon Europe; these that the principle of action is to keep up agitation at all cost, in order to furnish an occasion and pretext for diplomatic interference which should lead to military action. He endeavors to prove that the insurgents demand neither gress shall appoint commissioners to meet others on the an amnesty nor au autonomy; their object being, he de- part of Liocoln to make an honest effort to stay the effu clares, dominion over provinces where the immense majority are Russians by race or by religion. He declines | these commissioners may do be submitted to the people. even to discuss the question of a suspension of hostilities, and refuses to have the proposed measures submitted to a conference, on the ground that the result would be "an interference of foreign Powers in the most intimate details of the admir istration-an interference which no great Power could admit, and which certainly England would not accept in her own affairs."

The replies to France and Austria were conceived in imilar spirit, and in both countries have occasioned great pular excitement. The Parisian journals refer openly war as the result of the note to France, where it is not regarded as a diplomatic reply, but as a defiance. Petiions breath ng intense hatred to Russia, and calling upon the Emperor to draw his sword and cut the knot which diplomacy fails to untie have been numerously signed by the working classes. In his despatch in reply to the Austrian note, Prince Gortschakoff, while declining to submit by the past (and we have no other means of judging) we the details of the administration of Poland to the deliberations of the Powers that signed the treaty of Vienna on Jone 9, 1815, declares the readiness of the Russian Government to enter into negotiations with the by respectable societies, and supported, in Cabinets of Vienna and Berlin for the purpose of placing the respective position of their Polish posses" sions affected by the stipulations of the treaties of 1815, in harmony with present necessities and the progress of time. The Prince also insinuates that Galicia and the kingdom of Poland are on a par. Count Rechberg, the Austrian Minister, "categorically rej cts" the above insinuation, and declines to enter into the proposed negotia-

As neither France, England, nor Austria can, with dignity, withdraw from their position, it is generally besci on these people may learn the important lesson that the obedience which, as slaves, they paid to the will of a b'e supposition, Russia should at the last moment accede to the demands of these Powers. The war spirit seems to be higher in France and Austria than in England, where wherever, throughout the superintendencies | the people are beginning to count the cost, and to question the expediency of assisting Louis Napoleon in his designs to alter the present map of Europe in the interest of France. Some of the French papers complain bitterly that Russia has, as usual, got the upperhand in the diple matic game. She has managed to evade a decisive answer until the season is too far advanced for the commencemen of active host lities this year, and before the opening of the spring campaign the revolution will have been crushed and

the hopes of Poland destroyed. We continue to receive intelligence, not always trust worthy, of frequent and bloody skirmishing; but neither side has as yet achieved a decisive victory. One grand obstacle to the success of the insurrection appears to be the spathy of the peasants. When the revolutionary party in Poland declared the peasant to be the free proprietor of his land, there seemed to be some foundation for a hop that he might prove grateful to his benefactors; but as class the peasants are suspicious of the proprietors, and are inclined to regard the remission of their reats as a mere trap. In parts of the kingdom they are at this time favorable to the cause of the revolution; in many others unfavorable; but on the whole their position is one of passive indifference to either side.—New York Com. Adv.

Gen. Osterbaus is not dead, as rebel despatches so time ago declared. At last accounts he was in good health, and prepared to do good service in ridding Mississippi of armed rebels.

THE REACTION IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The Union feeling in North Carolina appears to be constantly gathering strength, while the desire for peace seems to be almost universal. The Raleigh Standard of a recent date gives expression to this feeling in an article of great boldness. It copies an article from the Raleigh Daily Progress, which expresses great fear that unless the war is soon stopped slavery will be obliterated, &c , and then adds: "We agree with our contemporary in much of the

above. But we have no idea that peace can be obtained on our own terms; the most powerful nations seldom succeed in doing that. What the great mass of our people desire is a cessation of hostilities and negotiations. If they could reach that point they would feel that the conflict of arms would not be renewed, and that some settlement would be effected which would leave them in the future in the erjoyment of life, liberty, and happiness. "It is a great crime, especially at a time like this, to conceal the truth. We intend to tell the truth as far as

we know it, let the consequences be what they may. From the beginning of the war until the present time the enemy bas slowly but surely gained upon us; and but for the ex traordinary endurance and courage of our troops, his flag would now be floating at the capital of every State. We have lost Missouri, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, the Mis-issippi Valley, Texas, Louisians, Arkansas, and consid-rable portions of other States. Vicksburg has fallen as we feared many months ago it would. Port Hudson fallen. Charleston, Mobile, and Savasnah will probably go next. Gen. Lee is attempting to retire from Maryland with his spoils, but no substantial victory has crowned his arms. We are weaker to-day than when he crossed the Potomac into Maryland. Our recruits in the way of conscripts will scarcely keep our regiments full, and we can not hope to add materially to our forces. Our fighting population is pretty well exhausted. Every body knows this-the North knows this and so does Europe. On the contrary, our enemies, flushed with triumph, have a large army in the field, and their President has just called for three hundred thousand more. He will get them. "The movement on Pennsylvania by Gen. Lee and the

fall of Vicksburg and Port Hudson have hushed all clamors for peace in the North, and have banded the people there as one man for the presecution of the war. We have nothing to hope for from foreign nations, and just as our cause is, we see no indications that Providence is about to interpose in our behalf. The war, then, will go on. One side or the other must conquer. Will five milions of whites conquer twenty millions of the same race? Will they conquer a peace on the very soil of these twenty millions? Not in any event, if these twenty millions possess ordinary manhood and will fight. They fought at Sharps burg and Gettysburg, and they worsted us at the latter place. Northern troops are not cowards - they fight nearly as well as Southern troops. We cannot schieve signal victories over them on their own soil. What then If the worst is destined to overtake us, would it not be wise and prudent to take less than the worst, provided we could do so compatibly with honor?

"The Richmond Enquirer recently declared that ther were but two roads before the South-one to invade the North and conquer a peace, and the other to restore of reconstruct the old Government. That paper was either indulging vain speculations as to the future, or it will be repared to abandon the contest if Gen Lee should fail in his effort to conquer a peace by invading the North To abandon the contest or attempt to subdue the presence of Northern armies on our soil, and to resist them only by of Northern armies on our soil, and to resist them only by guerrilla warfare, is most probably to be conquered. It does not follow that a nation is not conquered because all its troops, or a considerable portion of them, are not whipped or captured. Whipped we never have been and never will be; but we may be overcome by mere physical force. Such was the fate of Poland, Hungary, and Ireland. It is no disgrace to a people to be overpowered by mere brute force, if they resist manfully and desperately. No troops since civilization commenced have fought with more courses or constancy, or ardor than the Southern troops. courage, or constancy, or ardor than the Southern troops. Their future and the future of the country for which they are contending can never be in any event otherwise than respectable and honorable among nations. We grope in the dark, looking for the designs and endeavor to interpret the workings of Providence in the affairs of nations. The birth of a nation on this planet is a great event. If it should please Him to build up and perpetuate this new nation of Confederate States, He will do it; if not He will not do it. This is all we know about it.

" It is time to consult reason and common sense, and to dering on the South Carolina line, 'the people are tired of this awful war. It must end at some time, and there must be a starting point to an end. Let our next Congressional elections turn on the propositions, that Consion of blood, by an honorable adjustment. Let what If they approve it peace will be the result, if they reject it the war will be renewed and continued indefinitely ' If an honorable peace were tendered by the South and re jected by the North, desperation would then nerve every Southern arm and our people would share a common fate and fill a common grave. But this awful result, it seems to us, may be averted. It may do much good and can do no harm to talk-to negotiate or pave the way to negotia-

ting while we fight. "We spoke just now of the worst befalling our people as the result of this war. What is the worst? It would be the condition of provincial dependence on the Federal Government, each State being ruled by a military governor as Tennessee is, and the emancipation of our slaves in our midst. That wou d be the worst. If the war continues is it not likely that this will happen? Judging the future fear it will. What then? Must we rush on to our doom? Must the sword still wave and the strong arm of physical force still exert itself, and no effort be made by mental and moral means to close the war? Why, North American savages sometimes bury the tomahawk and meet together to smoke the pipe of peace. Are we of the North and South-Christians as we profess to be-more sayage than the savages?

"These are sad truths, but we feel it to be our duty to av them before our readers. We do not censure others for entertaining their own opiniors, and we have a right to express ours without censure from friend or foe But ensure, and even the grossest abuse, we feel sure we shall incur; yet 'none of these things move us' when we know we are speaking the truth, for the sake of humanity and liberty, in the name of the people themselves, who ought to be, if they are not, practically the masters of us all."

THE HEATED TERM.

The New York Commercial Advertiser says :

"It is seldom we have to record such a continuance extreme hot weather. Some years ago the deaths in the city from sun stroke reached nearly two hundred. During the present heated term the record of deaths from the same cause amounts to some one hundred and fifty. Yes terday was the warmest day—the mercury at three o'clock standing at 94. To day at nine o'clock it was at 90, two rees higher than at the same hour yesterday. The ers from all parts of the country complain of the great

The New Haven Journal of Monday morning has the "The present most remarkable ' hot spell' has now cor

"The present most remarkable not spell has now continued for fifteen days. We have no personal recollection of any thing like it in this city. Yesterday was nearly as hot as any of its predecessors, the thermometer ranging from 90 to 98, according to position." The Montreal Gazette of Saturday says:

"It will hardly be news to our readers to say that the weather has been most oppressive for some time past.
They already know how oppressive it has been. It may
be interesting to those at a distance, however, to learn
that the margary remains between 10 and 10 that the mercury remains between 80 and 90 the greater part of the time. We have had several heavy storms of rain, but the air does not appear to have been much coo

d_the same overpowering moist heat remaining A friend writes us that last week, at Saratoga, the heat was more oppressive than it had been known for forty EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

The London papers of the 29th July announce the death on the preceding day, at Hamilton-lodge, South Kensing ton, of the Marquis of NORMANBY, in the sixty-seventl year of his age. His wife is still living, and their only son George Augustus Constantine, Earl of Mulgrave, now Governor of Nova Scotia, will inherit the title and estates PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

The ceremony of proroguing Parliament by royal cor nission took place on the 28th of July, when, after the two Houses had been assembled, the Queen's speech was read by the Lord Chancellor. We extract the rollowing passages, being all that will be of interest to any of our

We are commanded by her Majesty to dismiss you from further attendance in Parlisment, and at the same time to convey to you her Majes'y's acknowledgments for the zeal and assiduity with which you have applied yourselves to the performance of your duties during the session now

brought to a close.

Her Majesty has seen with deep regret the present condition of Poland. Her Majesty has been engaged in concert with the Emperors of the French and Austria, in negotiation, the subject of which has been to obtain the ful-filment of the supulations of the treaty of 1815 in behalf of the Poles. Her Majesty trusts that these stipulations will be carried into execution, and that thus a conflict discressing to humanity and dangerous to the tranquility of Europe, may be brought to a close.

The civil war between the Northern and Southern States

of the North American Union still unfortunately continues and is necesarily attended with much evil, not only to th contending parties, but also to na ions which have taken no part in the contest. Her Majesty, however, has seen no reason to depart from that strict neutrality which her Majesty has observed from the beginning of the contest.

The Greek nation having chosen Prince William of Denmark for their Kng, her Majesty is taking steps with a view to the wing of the Lorent Lebands to the kingdom of

view to the union of the Ionian Islands to the kingdom of Greece. For this purpose her Majesty is in c minusion with the Powers who were parties to the treaty of 1815, by which these islands were placed under the projectorate of subject of such union will be ascertained. everal barbarous outrages committed in Japan upon

British subjects have rendered it necessary for her Majes ty to demand reparation, and her Mejesty hopes that her demands will be conceded by the Japanese Government without its being necessary to proceed to coercive meaures to en orce them.

The Emperor of Brazil has thought proper to break of

ha diplomatic relations with her Majesty in consequence of her Majesty not having complied with the demand, which she did not deem it possible to accede to. Her Majesty has no wish that this estrangement should continue, and would be glad to see her relations with Brazil re-estab-The distress which the civil war in America has inflicted upon a portion of her Majesty's subjects in the manu-facturing districts, and toward the relief of which such generous and munificent contributions have been made, has in some degree diminished, as d her Mej sty has given

her cordial assent to measures calculated to have a benefit cisl influence upon that unfortunate state of things.

Symptoms of a renewal of disturbances have manifest-d
themselves in her Majesty's colony of New Zealand, but her M jesty trusts that by wise and conciliatory measures supported by adequate means of repression, order, and tranquility will be maintained in that valuable colony.

Her Majesty has given her assent to a measure for augmenting the income of a considerable number of small benefices, and she trusts that this measure will be con ucive to the interests of the established church. Her Majesty has given her assent to an act for the remission of Mejesty has given her assent to an act for the remission of a large portion of the statute book by the removal of many acts, which, although they had become obsolete or unnecessary, obstructed the condensation of the statute law. Her Mejesty has felt much pleasure in giving her assent to an act for placing upon a well defined footing that volunteer force which has added a most important element to the defensive means of the country.

Her Majesty has gladly given her assent to an act for carrying into effect the additional treaty concluded by her Mejesty with the President of the United States for the more effectual suppression of the slave trade, and her Majesty trues that the honorable co-operation of the Govern-

from the effects of the civil war in America, and in Ire-land from the results of the unfavorable seasons. The financial resources of the United Kingdom have been fully maintained, and the general commerce with the world has not been materially impaired.

It has been a source of great satisfaction to her Majesty

to find that her East Indian possessions rapidly recovered from the devastations which lately overspread them. They are entering upon a course of improvement, social, financial, and commercial, which holds out good promise for the future prosperity of those extensive regions. MR. LAIRD VS. MR SECRETARY WELLES.

Mr. Laird, of Birkenhead, has published the letters on whose name Mr. Laird refuses to publish, and thus withholds the only test by which the right of the party to make the propositions could be tested. We here insert the

WASHINGTON, JULY 30, 1861. DEAR SIRS: Since my arrival here I have had frequent in erviews with our "Department of Naval Affa re," and am happy to say that the Minister of the Navy is inclined to have an iron-plated ship built out of the country. This ship is designed for a specific purpose, to accomplish a de finite object. I send you herewith a memorandum handed me last evening from the Department, with the request that I would send it to you by the steame is mull of to-morrow, and to a k your immediate reply, stating if you will sgree to build such a ship as desired, how soon, and for how much, with such plans and spec fications as you

may deem it best to send me.

1 feel very sure that the building of this proposed shotproof steam-r will lead to other business of much value. Our own builders would be very jealous if they were aware of this application to you, but, in the present condition of affairs, it is important to act secretly and cautiously, and I have assured my Government that you will keep this matter entirely and strictly to yourselves, and by no means let it be known what you are building or for whom.

You will notice that the largest liberty is given for the construction of the ship, one requisite only being important—that she is bomb and shot-proof. How this is to be accomplished it is for you to judge and d termine, as the Department gives no specifications. I can state to you, in confidence, that the object is to enable the Government to make the attempt to take repossession of its forts in one specific Southern port I have assured our Minister of the Navy that if such a vessel can be built you can do it, and he has great confidence in my judgment.

In addition to this shot and shell proof vessel, he also wants a side-wheel gunboat, of not over five or six feet draft, rudder at both ends, speed not less than thirteen knots, to carry a sing e gun at each end weighing 6,000 lbs., exclusive of carriage; the boat to be built of iron.

Please give all due examination and thought for both of the objects desired, especially the battery, and write me as soon as possible, directed, as usual, at New York, for which I leave here this evening.

Waiting your advices, I am, dear sirs, very truly yours,

You can judge what angles to give if decks must be iron-plated, and the best form for glancing off balls. Messrs. JOHN LAIRD, SONS & Co., Birkenhead

We are desirous of having constructed a floating battery planned with the specific object of going into ports guarded with batteries and forts which are within from three bundred yards to half a mile from the channel. The floating battery or iron-plated ship to be so constructed as to be able to pass the forts comparatively unharmed by the fires of the batteries, both horizontal and plunging. the fires of the batteries, both horizontal and plunging. She is wanted for no other purpose. She is not required to have a speed exceeding six knots. She must not draw over fourteen feet. She must have no masts. Her rudder must not be exposed so as to be liable to be disabled in passing a fort. This is most important. There should be a rudder at each end to avoid turning. She must carry eight guns, (riff-d,) weighing each about 16,000 pounds—two on each side, two on bow, and two to fire from stern. The ship to be finished complete, with guns and every thing appertaining. hing appertaining.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 20, 1861. DEAR SIRS: Your valued favors of the 3d, 28th, and 31st ultime, with the accompanying drawings, were re-ceived during my absence in the far West with Gen. Fremont's division of the army, where I had been delayed far

beyond my expectations.

Immediately upon my return I went to Wa hington with your tracings and laid them before the Secretary of the Navy, and I trust that before long I shall be able to send you an order for the construction of one or more gun-

The Secretary was rather disappointed that you have not sent any response to the memorandum in reference to a shell and shot-proof battery for use in our Southern haryou will construct such a ship.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 26, 1861.

New YORK, OCTOBER 26, 1891.

My Dear Sirs: I have your valued favor, also the slips containing very interesting accounts of your new works, all of which give me much pleasure.

I congratulate you on the confidence manifested by your Government in entrusting you with the building of an iron-plated ship of such large dimensions, as well as the transport ship, and I have no doubt but that you will turn them out, as you always have done, to the entire satisfaction of the Admiralty. I trust that you may get the contract for the others they propose. the others they propose.

I cannot but regret that you did not estimate for the

I caunot but regret that you did not estimate for the floating batteries required by our Navy Department, as it would have been a step in the right direction, and had you succeeded, as I know you would, it would have gone far toward relaxing the stringency of our navigation laws in reference to the buying of fore gn built ships.

I sent your last letter, received yesterday, to the Secretary of the Navy, who was very desirous to have you build the iron-plated and bomb-proof batteries, and I trust that he may yet decide to have you build one or receased the

e may yet decide to have you build one or more of It is my present intention to visit England again for a

BISKENHEAD, APRIL 11, 1863.

nurried trip, leaving here in the Africa on the 6th of No-rember, and, if so, I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you about the 18th proximo.
With kind regards to all, I remain, &c.

Messrs. JOHN LAIRD, SONS & Co, Birkenhead.

My DEAR Sir: You will have seen by the newspapers he report of the discussion in the House of Commons on he Alabama case on the 27th of March last, and that I named in part of my speech the fact that my late firm had had application from the Secretary of the Navy of the Federal Government, through a friend of mine, to build vessels of war for them.

I do not wish to bring your name before the public, or

o publish the correspondence, except in the event of the Federal Government denying the statement I made, in which case I shall have in self defence to do so, which I shall regret. I think if they do deny the negotiation it will be treating you unfairly, more especially as your letter to me and its enclosures, handed to you by them, show that they entered very fully with you into the class of vessels re-quired, and the objects those vessels were intended to

ccomplish.

The American Government, as you also informed me, ersonally and by letter, May, 1861, had employed Capt. to endeavor to purchase suitable vessels for lockading purposes, and that you were in communication with him on this subject.

I did not name the neg tiation I had with the Federal Government through you until forced to do so by their friends in the House of Commons, notwithstanding the epea ed attacks made on myself and my sous in the American and English press, and by the partisans of the North at public meetings and elsewhere. To have re maned longer silent would have been construed into ad m'ssion that the charges made against me were correct, and therefore I felt the time had arrived when I must make some statement on the subject. I hope your family are all well, and remain, my dear sir,

COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE LETTERS.

Some of the newspapers, both English and American,

sharply criticise these anonymous letters as containing nothing whatever to sustain the assertions of Mr. Laird that he had been approached by agents of the Navy Department for the purpose of engaging him to build war-vessels for our Government. We copy the comments of the New, York Evening Post upon the subject, as follows :

"Every body remembers the letters which a Mr. Spence, of Liverpool, wrote to the London Times in 1861 and 1862, in support of the rebels. These letters professed to come from an Englishmen of independent opinions, and as such they had a certain influence, until, by the capture of a rebel despatch bag and the publication of the despatches, it became known that this impartial and high-toned English advocate of slavery and rebelilon was a salaried secret agent of the rebels. Since this discovery was made Mr. Spence's letters pass in England for just what they are

agent of the rebels. Since this discovery was made Mr. Spence's letters pass in England for just what they are worth—the special pleas of a hired attorney.

"Another and equally disreputable transaction has just been brought home to snoth-r English supporter of the rebels. Messrs Laird, Sons & Co., of Birkenhead, near Liverpool, b ild Alahamas and iron-clads for Jeff. Davis; and Mr. Laird, the senior partner of the firm, is a member of the English Parliament. Of the propriety of a member of the British Legislature engaging in such business we will say nothing here; though if ever hereafter a member of the United States Congress is found to be engaged in fitting out privateers to prey under a foreign and unrefitting out privateers to prey, under a foreign and unre-cognised flag, on British commerce, no doubt we shall receive lectures enough on the subject fro n the London "But Mr. Laird was not content to resp his gains in si-

"But Mr. Laird was not content to reap his gains in silence; he must endeavor to Justify himself; and some time ago he as erted in Parliament, positively, that at one time he had received from the Navy Department of the United States an order to build ships for our service. When this was brought to the attention of the Secretary of the Navy, he promptly and explicitly denied the truth of the assertion; and this denial was made public in England. Thereupon Mr. Laird seeks shelter behind certain annually the in Wash. which the law contemplates as the animus of a breach of the 57th article of war," was unwarranted by the law and the 57th article of war," was unwarranted by the law and bely one of those 'lobby agents' who, needy and unserupulous, hastened to Washington on the outbreak of the war pulous, hastened to Washington on the outbreak of the war. o try to turn a di honest penny by dint of impudence and

pertinacity.
"This wonderful correspondent of Messrs. Laird, Sons & Co. was not the only one, according to Mr. Welles, who 'importuned' the Department 'in behalf of Mr. Laird.' hope the remainder of Mr. Laird's bagmen were more skillful persons than this anonymous writer, whom he says he believed, though it is evident that he did not trust him enough to even take the trouble to send him plans and bids for 'a shot and shell proof battery,' such as he asked for.
"Mr. Laird's correspondent speaks bold'y enough of

'our government,' but he betrays himself indicrously when he speaks of the nequent interviews with 'our Depart-ment of Naval Affairs,' and of 'the Minister of the Navy.' two phrases never used in this country at any time, and which none but a recently arrived foreigner, ignorant even of the commonest phraseology of our administrative departments, could have invented. Yet, while thus convicted of ignorance, he constantly speaks of 'our' affairs as though he were a citizen of the country. In July this person speaks repeatedly of our 'Minister of the Navy,' but by October he has learned better, and writes of the Navy Department.'

"In the mean time, why did Mr. Laird correspond with such a person? Is it the fashion of great English mercantile firms to transact their business with unanown in-termediaries? Mr. Laird says he believed his correspon dent. We can only say that if he had written at or our Navy Department, when he received the st letter, he would have saved himself from what must be at letter, ting and ridiculous position, in which be is now placed. We are quite sure that an American business man of equal eminence would have taken , ains, first of all, to convince himself, by application to headquarters, of the

character of the agent who had approached him.

"So far, we are taking for granted that Mr. Laird's assertions are true, and that by his folly and unbusiness-like habits be permitted himself to be victimized. But we are

habits be permitted nimself to be victimized. But we are sorry to add the unless he promptly makes public the name of his correspondent he will fall under suspicion of even worze conduct than this. On this head the London Daily News says pointedly:

"But Mr. Laird can hardly suppose that when a fact has been publicly affirmed and publicly denied by the two parties most interested, the question between them can be decided by the production of anonymous letters. We agree with the friends whom Mr. Laird consulted that he had a right to use all documents, including the Washinging letter of July 30th, in his own vindication; and indeed that the question having become a public one between two Governments, it was his duty to do so; but then, if the letters are to be worth any thing as evidence, he must publish the name of his correspondent, If he cannot do this, his case breaks down for want of evidence. If Mr. Laird merely wishes to show want of evidence. If Mr. Laird merely wishes to show how he came to be possessed with a certain belief, these letters may suffice, but if he wants to convict the Ameri can Government they are worthless. The departmental memorandum which Mr. Laird publishes, and to which he appears to attach importance, contains no reference thim, and is just such an one as would be given to an Ame ican contractor. There must have been scores of similar memoranda issued at Washington to persons who were providing the American Government with home built ships. We submit to Mr. Laird that he cannot let the matter resi where it is. There must have been appalling lying some where, and we hope the guilty party will be found out. In the mean time, Mr. Laird's letters prove nothing to the

THE LETTER OF SECRETARY WELLES. The letter of the Secretary of the Navy, which has been so frequently referred to, is printed in the London papers, As follows: NAVY DEPARTMENT

Washington, May 19, 1863.

HOD. CHARLES SUMNERas shell and shot-proof battery for use in our Southern har-bors—I may say to you, in confidence, intended to force an entrance into Charleston harbor, defended by Forts Sumter and Moultrie. I hope that you may be able to send me a plan for such a battery, and the terms on which you will construct such a ship.

DEAR SIR: You invite my attention to the speech of Mr. John Laird, delivered in the British House of Com-mons on the 27th March, in which he represents that the Secretary of the Navy made application to him, through an agent or agents, to build vessels for the Government of the United States.

broke ont, a friend of mine, whom I have known for many years, was over here, and came to see me with the view of getting versels built in this country for the American Government—the Northern Government. Its agents in this country made inquiry," &c.

It is not improbable that Mr. Laird and his friend may have interchanged views or the subject of building vessels for the United States as a private money making transaction; but it is not true that any application to build a vessel for this Government was ever made to that gentleman, directly or indirectly, by myself or any agent of the Navy Department. No person or persons have been emman, directly or indirectly, by myself or any agent of the Navy Department. No person or persons have been employed by nie as agent or agents, or been authorized by the Navy Department or by the American Government to make application to Mr. Laird or to the firm of which he is a member, or to any other person or firm abroad, to build a vessel or vessels for the Government of the United States or for the navy of the United States.

States or for the navy of the United States.

I remember applications were made to me at the beginning of the rebellion by persons professing to be the agents of English or foreign firms to procure vessels to be built by this Government, and I have an indistinct remembrance that this Department was importuned by more than one person on behalf of the Messrs. Laird, and very probably they, like others, presented plans and solicated our views; but I pursued a uniform and undeviating policy in regard to each and all these applications, declining in every instance any proposition to build, or procure to be built, vessels for our navy abroad.

When, therefore, Mr. Laird stated or intimated in the

be built, vessels for our navy abroad

When, therefore, Mr. Laird stated or intimated in the
House of Commons that any agent for the Secretary of the
American Navy, or of the Navy Department, approached
him "with a view of getting vessels built in this country
(Great Britain) for the American Government," he stated
what was not true. I have never, at any time, had such
purpose in view, and consequently I have never authorized
any person to act as my agent, or as the agent of the Navy
Department, or of the American Government, to procure
vessels to be built without the limits of the United States.

I am. very respectfully. I am, very respectfully, GIDEON WELLES, Se 'y of the Navy.

ORDERS IN THE CASE OF CASHELL.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, July 30, 1862. GENERAL ORDERS, No. 250. I. Before a General Court Martial, which convened in the city of Washington, D. C., July 20, 1863, pursuant to Special Orders No. 316, d. ted War Department, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, July 17, 1863, and of which

General's Office, Washington, July 17, 1863, and of which the following is the detail for the court: Major General E. A. Hitchcock, U. S. Volunteers; Brigadier General G. W. Morell, U. S. Volunteers; Brigadier General J. J. Abercrombie, U. S. Volunteers; Brigadier General S. A. Meredith, U. S. Volunteers; was arraigned and tried-

HAZEL B. CASHELL, a citizen of the State of Maryland.

CHARGE.—"Giving intelligence to the enemy."

Specification 1st—"In this, that he, Hazel B. Cashell, a citizen of the State of Maryland, did give intelligence to a body of rebel cavalry, said cavalry being enemies of the United States, by informing them and by pointing out to them the direction and route which a large lot of cattle belonging to the United States had, on the 28th day of June, 1863, been driven to escape and avoid being captured by said hody of rebel cavalry. This at Montgomery ed by said hody of rebel cavalry. This at Montgomery county, in the State of Maryland, on or about the 28th day of June, 1863."

of June, 1863."

Specification 2d— 'In this, that he, the said Hazel B. Cashell, after giving said rebel cavalry referred to in the first specification the information therein stated, did, at the same time, also further inform said rebel cavalry that said large lot of cattle were without the protection of a guard This in Mostgomery county, Maryland, on or about the 28th day of June, 1863" To which charge and specifications the accused, Hazel B. Cashell, a citizen of the State of Maryland, pleaded

The court, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accus d, Hazel B. Cashell, a citizen of the State of Maryland, as follows:

Of the first specification, "Guilty." Of the second specification, "Guilty." Of the charge, "Guilty."

SENTENCE.

not guilty.

"The court finds that although the accused answered certain questions put by rebels, which, in a strict literal sense, conveyed intelligence to the enemy, it has not appeared in evidence that the information was volunteered, peared in evidence that the information was volunteered, nor does the court perceive that such intelligence was given with that criminal design which the law contemplates as the animus of a breach of the 57th article of war; and the court therefore affixes no penalty to the offence beyond an admonition that in the future he will be more on his guard in answering inquiries addressed to him by an

rnemy.

"And it is further directed that the finding and judgment of the court in this case be published in three of the newspapers published in the city of Washington."

WAR DEPARTMENT, JULY 29, 1863. II. The findings of the court upon the charge and speci-icat one are approved. The "sentence," as it is termed, is disapproved. The charge and specification of which the accused was found guilty necessarily imported crimi-nality under the 57th article of war, and the declaration of the court that "it has not appeared in evidence that the discard passion. That peace cannot be attained by fighting merely is now apparent to all In the language of a ment had approached him with a view to getting vessels ing merely is now apparent to all In the language of a ment had approached him with a view to getting vessels ington and New York, by a person whose character, position, and antecedents Mr. Laird himself takes care not to which the law contemplates as the animus of a breach of

accused had at pasture on his farm, in Montgomery county, Maryland, some five hundred head or cattle, which, with some five hundred others, all the property of the United States, were driven away on the morning of the 28th of June for their protection from the rebel cavalry, then approaching. The rebels, riding up soon thereafter, demand-d, in the presence of several persons, including witness (Thomas Rabbit:) and the accused, in what direction the cattle had gone. Rabbitt, practicing a ruse which tion the cittle had gone. Rabbitt, practicing a ruse which war justifies, pointed them in a direction opposite to the true one. One of them returned, however, in a few minutes from the pursuit, and replated the dimand, when the accused unbestatingly indicated to him the road which the cattle had taken, and, in addition, stated their number, and that they were without any capit, account in the cattle had taken and in addition, stated their number, and that they were without any capit, account in the cattle had taken and in addition. and that they were without any guard except, the herdsmen ordinarily attending them—a stateme at which could have had but one object. The information thus commualcated was most important to the enemy, and it was given rolustarily, without threat or remained, or the exercise of any undue induence whatand complete disclosure and to the enemy is added the and complete disclosure and to the enemy is added the disloyal reputation and sympathies of the accused, as proved by the existence, no doubt can be entertained as to the animus of an econduct.

It suffices an econduct.

It suffices and a pears that the accused was expecting the accused was expecting the accused was expecting.

there were two persons in Rockville—asming the ought to be, and he guessed they would be, captured." His guilt, under the 57th Article of War, was fully established by the testimony, and that guilt was aggravated by the trust which had been reposed in him by the Government, and which was so shamefully and disloyally betrayed. Yet the "judgment" of the court was that there was present, in the action of the accused no such "criminal design as the law contemplates as a breach of the 57th Article of War;" and therefore the court contents itself with adnonishing him that "in future he shall be more on his

monthing him that "in future he shall be more on his guard in answering inquiries addressed to him by an enemy;" and this is the penalty provided for an off-nee which, under the Articles of War, is punishable with death. For such action by a military court, in presence of such flagrant crime, there is believed to be no precedent.

The court also directs that their "judgment" shall be published in three of the newspapers of the city of Washington. This publication will not be sauctioned, since it would be in effect a declaration to all disloyal men that they may, at will, communicate intelligence to the published they may, at will, communicate intelligence to the public enemy without fear of any other penalty than the gentle suggestion of a court-martial that they should be on their guard when doing so Although the accused has been relieved of all responsibility under the 57th article of war, he is still liable to be prosecuted under the second section of the act to suppress insurrection, &c., approved 17th July, 1862, for giving aid and comfort to the rebellion; and that the prosecution for this offence may be proceeded with, he will be handed over to the civil authorities.

It is ordered that this court be at once dissolved, and that another court-martial be organized for the trial of the esses now pending.

Lis further ordered that this review be published in the

Army and Navy Gazette, as an expression of the strong isappreral with which the action of this court is regar EDWIN M. STANTON, Sec'y of War.

III. The General Court-Martial, of which Major Gen. E. A. Hitchcock, U. S. Volunteers, is President, is hereby dissolved.

By order of the Secretary of War. E. D. Townsend, Asa't Adj't Gen

EXPLOSION ON A GUNBOAT .- The revenue steam cutter Naugatuck, built by E. A. Stevens, and stationed at Throgg's Neck, in the East river, fired a pivot gun a few days ago, to bring to a schooner, when the gun burst, mortally wounding one of her crew and badly injuring five

PREDICTION FULFILLED.—Some were disposed sneer at Major Gen. Banks, nine months ago, because he said to the nine months' men that they should return home by another route than that of the ocean. Those same men are now coming home by way of the Mississippi river-